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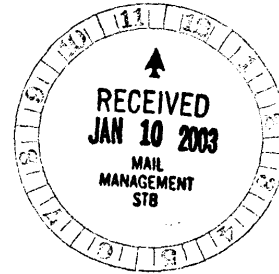
First class mail and fax (202) 565-9004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

JAN 10 2003

Part of
Public Record



Re: STB Docket No. AB-43 (Sub-No. 173X), Illinois Central
Railroad Company — Petition for Exemption for
Abandonment in Forrest County, Mississippi


Dear Secretary Williams:

Illinois Central Railroad Company ("IC") is agreeable to a Public Use Condition being imposed in this proposed abandonment pursuant to the terms of the letter of December 31, 2002, submitted in this proceeding on behalf of the Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District. Furthermore, IC does not object to the request for an interim trail use and rail banking condition as set forth in the same letter. IC intends to negotiate with the Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District for a possible interim trail use agreement.

IC considers the letter of the Pearl & Leaf Rivers Recreational District to be simply a request for conditions to which IC is agreeable in this proceeding, and not a protest or petition for reconsideration. Therefore, IC requests that the Board not treat it as a protest or petition for reconsideration, just a request for conditions.

Feel free to call me at (312) 755-7954 if you have any questions. Ten copies of this letter are included in the submission to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Counsel for Illinois Central
Railroad Company

Encls.

cc: Elmer Beardshall
Pearl & Leaf Rivers Rails-to-Trails Recreational District
P.O. Box 15187
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